Elementary education

1381. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per the national report on the status of elementary education, the enrolment figures of children between 6 and 14 years of age have dipped with 6.8 per cent of these children not in school in 2006 as compared to 6.5 per cent in the previous year;

(b) whether it is also a fact that more and more children in this age group are joining private schools rather than those run by Government; and

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take to improve the enrolment figures for children in the Government schools?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) The Government of India has not commissioned any national report on out of school children in the year 2006. Such a survey had been commissioned through an independent agency SRI-IMRB in July-August, 2005, which estimated that 6.94% of the total children in the 6-14 age group were out of school in the country. In March, 2006, the States/UTs Governments have reported that there were 70 lakh children out of school.

(b) and (c) As per DISE data for 2005-06, of the total enrolment in elementary schools 85.76% was in Government and Government Aided Schools. This shows that Government & Government-Aided Schools still account for the largest percentage of enrolments in the elementary education sector.

Improvement of educational status for Muslims

1382. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have directed the University Grants Commission to find ways to improve the educational status of Muslims;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that Government directed UGC to use a Diversity Index to stop the level of social adversity on all University campuses;

(c) if so, what is the status of using the Diversity Index to help Muslims get higher education; and

(d) the steps proposed by Government to monitor the UGC to increase number of Muslims in universities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) The Central Government have advised the University Grants Commission (UGC) to assess the feasibility of working out a diversity index for evolving a system of grants based on such an index. Subject to the feasibility thereof, the UGC is competent, under the University Grants Commission Act, 1956, to monitor the implementation.

Shortage of primary school teachers

1383. SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE:
SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is an acute shortage of teachers at primary schools in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (c) Against an ideal Pupil Teacher Ratio (PTR) of 1:40, the PTR for government primary schools in 2004-05 was 1:41 in the country. The Government of India has sanctioned 10.12 lakh teacher posts under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan up to 2006-07.